



## Complete Summary

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### TITLE

Tobacco: percent of spinal cord injury and disorders (SCI&D) veterans using tobacco who have been offered a referral to smoking cessation specialty program to assist with cessation within the past year.

### SOURCE(S)

Office of Quality Performance. FY 2009, Q2 technical manual for the VHA performance measurement system. Washington (DC): Veterans Health Administration; 2009 Jan 5. various p.

## Measure Domain

### PRIMARY MEASURE DOMAIN

Process

The validity of measures depends on how they are built. By examining the key building blocks of a measure, you can assess its validity for your purpose. For more information, visit the [Measure Validity](#) page.

### SECONDARY MEASURE DOMAIN

Does not apply to this measure

## Brief Abstract

### DESCRIPTION

This measure is used to assess the percent of spinal cord injury and disorders (SCI&D) veterans using tobacco who have been offered a referral to smoking cessation specialty program to assist with cessation within the past year.

### RATIONALE

Approximately one-third of veterans with spinal cord injury and disorders (SCI&D) are current smokers (EPRP fiscal year [FY] 2002-2008) despite the high morbidity and mortality from respiratory complications in this population. The primary objective of this measure is to increase rates of evidence-based interventions to provide tobacco cessation advice, medications, and referrals by providers.

Effective, evidence-based interventions exist for controlling and preventing many chronic diseases. In the case of smoking cessation, there is a large body of evidence providing strong support that counseling and medications are effective in helping smokers quit. Implementing proven clinical smoking cessation interventions would cost an estimated \$2,587 for each year of life saved, the most cost-effective of all clinical preventive services.

#### **PRIMARY CLINICAL COMPONENT**

Tobacco use; spinal cord injury and disorders (SCI&D); smoking cessation clinic referral

#### **DENOMINATOR DESCRIPTION**

All spinal cord injury and disorders (SCI&D) inpatient and outpatient veterans using tobacco (see the related "Denominator Inclusions/Exclusions" field in the Complete Summary)

#### **NUMERATOR DESCRIPTION**

Veterans using tobacco who, within the past year, have been offered referral to cessation program (see the related "Numerator Inclusions/Exclusions" field in the Complete Summary)

### **Evidence Supporting the Measure**

#### **EVIDENCE SUPPORTING THE CRITERION OF QUALITY**

- A clinical practice guideline or other peer-reviewed synthesis of the clinical evidence

### **Evidence Supporting Need for the Measure**

#### **NEED FOR THE MEASURE**

Unspecified

### **State of Use of the Measure**

#### **STATE OF USE**

Current routine use

#### **CURRENT USE**

External oversight/Veterans Health Administration  
Internal quality improvement

## Application of Measure in its Current Use

### **CARE SETTING**

Ambulatory Care  
Hospitals  
Physician Group Practices/Clinics

### **PROFESSIONALS RESPONSIBLE FOR HEALTH CARE**

Advanced Practice Nurses  
Dentists  
Nurses  
Physician Assistants  
Physicians  
Psychologists/Non-physician Behavioral Health Clinicians  
Social Workers

### **LOWEST LEVEL OF HEALTH CARE DELIVERY ADDRESSED**

Single Health Care Delivery Organizations

### **TARGET POPULATION AGE**

Unspecified

### **TARGET POPULATION GENDER**

Either male or female

### **STRATIFICATION BY VULNERABLE POPULATIONS**

Unspecified

## Characteristics of the Primary Clinical Component

### **INCIDENCE/PREVALENCE**

See the "Rationale" field.

### **ASSOCIATION WITH VULNERABLE POPULATIONS**

Unspecified

### **BURDEN OF ILLNESS**

Unspecified

### **UTILIZATION**

Unspecified

## **COSTS**

See the "Rationale" field.

## **Institute of Medicine National Healthcare Quality Report Categories**

### **IOM CARE NEED**

Living with Illness  
Staying Healthy

### **IOM DOMAIN**

Effectiveness

## **Data Collection for the Measure**

### **CASE FINDING**

Users of care only

### **DESCRIPTION OF CASE FINDING**

All spinal cord injury and disorders (SCI&D) inpatient and outpatient veterans using tobacco

### **DENOMINATOR SAMPLING FRAME**

Patients associated with provider

### **DENOMINATOR INCLUSIONS/EXCLUSIONS**

#### **Inclusions**

All spinal cord injury and disorders (SCI&D) inpatient and outpatient veterans using tobacco\*

*\*Eligible veterans:* Meets cohort selection criteria and documented in the medical record the patient is currently using tobacco. If the patient's response is vague or ambiguous or documentation is conflicting (tobacco user and non-tobacco user both documented), patient is considered to be using tobacco.

#### **Notes:**

- If a patient was not screened in the past 12 months and not known to be a lifetime non-tobacco user, or quit greater than 7 years ago, they are presumed to use tobacco and are included in the denominator (count against the facility).

- If conflicting documentation exists as to whether the patient uses tobacco or not, (tobacco user and non-tobacco user both documented), they are presumed to use tobacco.

## **Exclusions**

- Veterans who have reported successfully quitting in the last 12 months
- Has a life expectancy that doesn't lend itself to prevention screening; any of the following exclude the patient from screening for the prevention measures:
  - Documented diagnosis of Cancer of Esophagus, Liver, or Pancreas
  - Enrolled in a VHA or community-based Hospice program
  - Documented in the Medical Record a life expectancy less than 6 months on the PROBLEM LIST or as a Health Factor in Computerized Patient Record System (CPRS)

## **RELATIONSHIP OF DENOMINATOR TO NUMERATOR**

All cases in the denominator are equally eligible to appear in the numerator

## **DENOMINATOR (INDEX) EVENT**

Clinical Condition  
Encounter  
Institutionalization  
Patient Characteristic

## **DENOMINATOR TIME WINDOW**

Time window brackets index event

## **NUMERATOR INCLUSIONS/EXCLUSIONS**

### **Inclusions**

Veterans using tobacco who, within the past year, have been offered referral to cessation program\*

*\*Referral to cessation program:* Patient may refuse to participate but documentation must indicate that program was offered. This referral should optimally be to inform the patient of services available through a Veterans Affairs (VA) Smoking or Tobacco Use Cessation Specialty Clinic or a VA provider who is the local specialist in evidence-based smoking cessation care, if such a clinic or provider is available to the patient. If the patient cannot or will not attend a VA clinic, or if one is unavailable, the provider can also offer to refer the patient to a local smoking cessation program in the community, such as one available through the American Lung Association, the American Cancer Society, or a state telephone counseling quitline, as appropriate.

**Note:** Any provider who is able to refer would be able to provide brief counseling and/or refer to a specialty smoking cessation clinic, including physicians, nurse practitioners/physician assistants (NP/PAs), registered nurses (RNs), social workers, psychologists, dentists, substance abuse counselors, and others.

### **Exclusions**

Unspecified

## **MEASURE RESULTS UNDER CONTROL OF HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS, ORGANIZATIONS AND/OR POLICYMAKERS**

The measure results are somewhat or substantially under the control of the health care professionals, organizations and/or policymakers to whom the measure applies.

### **NUMERATOR TIME WINDOW**

Fixed time period

### **DATA SOURCE**

Administrative data  
Medical record

### **LEVEL OF DETERMINATION OF QUALITY**

Individual Case

### **PRE-EXISTING INSTRUMENT USED**

Unspecified

## **Computation of the Measure**

### **SCORING**

Rate

### **INTERPRETATION OF SCORE**

Better quality is associated with a higher score

### **ALLOWANCE FOR PATIENT FACTORS**

Unspecified

### **STANDARD OF COMPARISON**

Internal time comparison

## **Evaluation of Measure Properties**

### **EXTENT OF MEASURE TESTING**

Unspecified

## Identifying Information

**ORIGINAL TITLE**

Offered referral to smoking cessation clinic to assist with cessation.

**MEASURE COLLECTION**

[Fiscal Year \(FY\) 2009: Veterans Health Administration \(VHA\) Performance Measurement System](#)

**MEASURE SET NAME**

[Performance Measures](#)

**MEASURE SUBSET NAME**

[Tobacco \(SCI&D\)](#)

**DEVELOPER**

Veterans Health Administration

**FUNDING SOURCE(S)**

Unspecified

**COMPOSITION OF THE GROUP THAT DEVELOPED THE MEASURE**

Unspecified

**FINANCIAL DISCLOSURES/OTHER POTENTIAL CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**

Unspecified

**ADAPTATION**

Measure was not adapted from another source.

**RELEASE DATE**

2009 Jan

**MEASURE STATUS**

This is the current release of the measure.

**SOURCE(S)**

Office of Quality Performance. FY 2009, Q2 technical manual for the VHA performance measurement system. Washington (DC): Veterans Health Administration; 2009 Jan 5. various p.

## **MEASURE AVAILABILITY**

The individual measure, "Offered Referral to Smoking Cessation Clinic to Assist with Cessation," is published in "FY 2009, Q2 Technical Manual for the VHA Performance Measurement System."

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## **NQMC STATUS**

This NQMC summary was completed by ECRI Institute on January 8, 2010. The information was verified by the measure developer on March 22, 2010.

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